

# **CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2004**

**WESTERN HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**400 PHENIX AVENUE**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: 6:00 P.M.**

**PUBLIC SESSION: 7:00 P.M.**

## **MINUTES**

The regular monthly meeting of the Cranston School Committee was held on the evening of the above date at Western Hills Middle School with the following members present: Mr. Cardarelli, Mr. Drager, Mr. Eramian, Mr. Lupino, Mr. Palumbo, Mr. Stycos, and Mrs. White. Also present were Mrs. Ciarlo, Mr. Scherza, Mr. Balducci and Mr. Votto.

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. It was moved, seconded and unanimously carried that the members adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel pursuant to RI State Laws 42-46-5(1) personnel and 42-46-5(2) contract and litigation.

The meeting reconvened at 7:10 p.m.

The roll was called and the Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

It was moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and

unanimously carried that the December 13, 2004 Executive Session minutes remain confidential.

## **I. COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Lupino stated that it has been a good month for Cranston Public Schools from a heartwarming article regarding the Park View Middle School Thanksgiving Celebration to his attendance of Cinderella at Cranston High School West. He noted that it was nice to see them get back to their routes after trying some avant-garde productions that turned out very well. He was happy to see them get back to a more traditional Christmas production. He gave much credit to the students, Mrs. Vitulli, and especially to the parents who support what goes on in the productions.

He attended the Thanksgiving Day Game, and the score was not indicative of the game. Cranston West did a wonderful job of doing what they do best. It was a very defensive game. The field conditions are the only thing that prevented Cranston East from closing up the score a little more than they did. One can't be quick and run in a field with 4" of mud. Approximately two minutes before half time, the skies opened up, and everyone present was soaked to the skin. The band came out, and in true fashion, put on an

excellent show. They deserve as much recognition as the two teams who battled on the field because they also fought the battle with the conditions of the field. Hats off to both bands, the Falconettes, the Westernettes, and the Color Guard from Cranston East who all did a wonderful job.

Mr. Lupino went on to say that this evening marks a very big loss to the Cranston Public Schools. Four of the members will not be here next month, not as members of the School Committee. Mr. Drager has done a remarkable job for the committee over the past two years. He found it very disheartening that in the recent election he lost in an area where he was a big champion. He was almost personally responsible for this committee not voting to shut down Horton School. He has been a valuable asset from an engineering and business standpoint, and most importantly as a parent, because he really cared about the children of Cranston. Mr. Lupino wished him good luck in his future endeavors and sincerely thanked him for all he has done for the children of Cranston.

Mr. Lupino went on to comment that Mr. Eramian joined the committee under unusual circumstances to fill the vacancy of a committee member who was ill. He came on and really came from a business standpoint. He was the one person who came on and said that if there was fat in the budget he would find it. His brother described Mr. Eramian as one could read a spreadsheet blindfolded.

He really took the committee to heart and went well above and beyond what anyone could imagine. He is a very busy businessman. His business is not local; it is in Connecticut, and he did a lot of traveling. Mr. Eramian's estimation is that he put in approximately twelve hours a week. Mr. Lupino felt it was more in the range of twenty-five hours a week including his time to travel back and forth to Connecticut. Mr. Eramian was proud of this school system because he looked at the budget from a businessman's standpoint, and he became one of the committee's biggest advocates for the budget. Mr. Eramian often said that it was not who was right but what was right. What's right is what is right for this city. He has done a wonderful job. Mr. Lupino wished him well in his future endeavor. Unfortunately, he is unable to continue on the committee because of time constraints. Mr. Lupino thanked Mr. Eramian for his commitment to the committee and for going above and beyond the call of duty.

Mr. Lupino continued that another big loss is Mr. Cardarelli whom he has had the pleasure of serving with for the past six years. Mr. Cardarelli has probably been the most vocal member over the past six years. He has always been an advocate for sports, art programs, and band programs. He spent money out of his own pocket to get bumper stickers printed. He truly became a true Cranstonian because he was a native of North Providence. Very early on Mr. Cardarelli helped the School Committee support some programs, one of which was the Cranston Education Foundation among others to

benefit the kids of Cranston. He is going on to another career. If one is on Route 95 South heading toward Pawtucket, there is a billboard and also one in Times Square with

Page 3      December 13, 2004

Mr. Cardarelli featured. He will surely be missed not only for his humor but also for his excitement about Cranston Public Schools and his want for a better education for the students of the district. He always fought the establishment for what the school district could not live without. He wished him a lot of luck and success, and he knew that as long as young Michael was involved with Cranston Public Schools, Mr. Cardarelli will attend School Committee meetings to speak up to defend Cranston Public Schools. Mr. Lupino sincerely thanked him for his time and friendship.

Mr. Lupino remarked that there were not a lot of words to describe what Mrs. White has done for this school system. She has served on the School Committee for sixteen years and an additional twelve years prior to that as a very active parent at Stadium School on their PTO. She has truly been a voice for the kids. She has fought the unions when she had to fight them, and she has supported them when she had to. She has fought mayors for money and has done some battles with a former mayor who is now a member of the School Committee. She has always been an advocate for what she thought was right. She never backed down from a fight, and Mr. Lupino said

that he respected her for it. He did not always agree with her, and they had their moments where they were at opposite ends of the spectrum. One of the things he admired most about her, besides her conviction, was the fact that they were always friends when it was over. She never held a grudge. He further stated that one doesn't realize what is lost until it is gone. The committee will certainly miss Mrs. White. He wished her and her family good luck. She has been through a lot, both with her family and with the School Committee. The committee truly appreciates what she has done for them. He hoped that at some time in the future they will be able to honor her in a much more elaborate way than was done tonight.

Lastly, Mr. Lupino remarked that behind all of these people were families, and they have given up the ultimate – time away from their families. Without their family support, the committee would not have had their input, and Cranston Public Schools would not be what it is today. He quoted Mr. Eramian who had said that an inch of time is an inch of gold. Certainly these people have given much of their time and also their families have given much of their time. He thanked their families for allowing them to participate. He asked the families to encourage these committee members to return and participate now and then. He thanked them all for their time, effort, and support.

Mrs. Ciarlo announced that the Chester Barrows Elementary School has been nominated as a Blue Ribbon School which means national recognition. Last year the district was so pleased to have Norwood

Avenue School and Arlington School as Blue Ribbon Schools. She was informed approximately one week ago by the Commissioner's office that he had recommended three schools from the State of Rhode Island, and one of them happens to be a Cranston school. His office said that Cranston has cornered the market on Blue Ribbon Schools, and Mrs. Ciarlo told them that they are good in Cranston and will continue to be good. The school will proceed through a

Page 4      December 13, 2004

rigorous application process and will find out in the early fall. If successful, they will go to Washington, DC. Last year nationally there were only two hundred out of all the elementary, middle, junior high and high schools in the country, so it is an extreme honor. She was very pleased to compliment Mr. Jamieson, school principal. Barrows is also the top or the second most high achieving school in the state.

Mrs. Ciarlo went on further to say that Mr. Lupino had already said many of the things she wanted to say. She will miss these members because they have been her bosses, and it has been a privilege to work with them throughout the years. She will miss Mr. Eramian's thoughtful questions, and who could speak more eloquently than Mr. Cardarelli. Mr. Drager has been one of the most faithful School Committee members to his schools than anyone she has ever known.

Mrs. Ciarlo went on to say that she and Mrs. White almost grew up

together in Cranston Public Schools. She has known Mrs. White for the past thirty years whether it be from Title 1, her role on the School Committee or most recently as Chairwoman. She has always admired Mrs. White, and they have become friends. Mrs. White is not a politician. She did everything for the good of the kids. Mrs. White always said that when you don't lie you don't have to have a good memory. Mrs. Ciarlo went on further to say that she will miss her. She always tell people that she never really lets them go; she lets them go on loan somewhere else. She hoped that Mrs. White would volunteer in some capacity for the school district. Mrs. Ciarlo thanked the committee for making her job easier as Superintendent. This committee has been the best bunch of bosses she could have ever had.

Mrs. Ciarlo announced that in order to truly honor Mrs. White the Bain Middle School auditorium will be dedicated in Mrs. White's honor on Monday, January 31, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bain library. Her family, friends, and colleagues will be joining her on that night. She asked everyone to put it on their calendars. The snow date is Thursday, February 3, 2005.

Mrs. White noted that School Committee members-elect Michael Traficante and Deborah Greifer were present at this meeting.

Mr. Cardarelli stated that after tonight he was looking forward to attending School Committee meetings on a regular basis as a parent



advocate. He thanked Mr. Lupino for his kind words and thanked him more for his friendship. The past six years have been an honor to serve on the committee. When one is in politics it is a mistake to be involved when one has small children. His son is nine years old, and he could not consider it any longer. They are small only once, and he should have made the decision earlier not to run. It has been a distinct honor for him to work with so many great people. Mr. Ventetuolo was his mentor, and had to thank him and Mrs. White. Mr. Cardarelli had bumped heads so many times with Mrs. White and Mr. Ventetuolo, and so many times he asked himself why he didn't listen to them. So many times he realized that they were right and he was wrong. They were both tremendous mentors in

Page 5      December 13, 2004

his first term. Mrs. Ciarlo, Mr. Cofone and so many of the administrative staff were so great in getting the facts and figures to the committee. The present administrative staff guided the committee in getting through so many of the budget hearings and the year-long process. To Mr. Lemoi, Mr. Frederick, Mrs. Campbell and the rest of the staff, he thanked them for keeping this massive operation going. Day after day, year after year 11,000 students are educated with 1,000 teachers, faculty and support staff. This district has Blue Ribbon Schools and received national accolades. The School Committee does nothing but the oversight; they support these programs and projects. While the committee gets a little bit of the

credit for it, they deserve even less than that because the committee is merely the oversight panel. It is those hard working people who do the job and receive very little credit for it. It has been an honor to be a support person for them. He has been overwhelmed with the people he has worked with over the past six years. He hasn't said thank you enough to them over the past six years. While he sits in the audience for the next nine years as his son progresses through the school system, he will make it a point to say thank you a lot more as he deals with people who are educating his son. Cranston Public Schools has a fine bunch of people. He told Mrs. Ciarlo that she runs an awesome ship and that she deserves every credit. If they don't vote her Superintendent of the Year nationally, they are crazy. Mr. Cardarelli further commented that he has been proud to be a part of this organization.

Mr. Cardarelli commented to Mr. Lemoi that even though Cranston East is the shining star he is very impressed with Cranston West's newspaper, The West Wind. He commented that this is one of the finest newspapers he has ever seen on the high school or college level. These young adults do a fantastic job journalistic wise. They tackle some tough questions and some tough topics. They don't let the School Committee off on some tough topics, and they don't let the Mayor off on some tough topics. The students should be commended for their writing. He asked Mr. Frederick to challenge someone at Cranston East to print a comparable newspaper.

**Mr. Palumbo remarked that he could not agree more with the comments previously made by Mr. Lupino and Mr. Cardarelli. The committee members who are leaving deserve every compliment they received. He hoped that they will come back and give the committee the benefit of their knowledge they have gained over the years.**

**Mr. Lupino commented that he was approached by a former administrator for Cranston Public Schools who moved to southern Rhode Island. He told Mr. Lupino that one doesn't know what they have until it is gone. This person was so impressed with the Cranston School Committee as compared to what he is stepping into now. This committee deserves much more credit than what they are willing to take credit for. Mr. Lupino told Mr. Cardarelli that he knew how he felt about the schools and administration, but the committee was a good portion of what has taken place in Cranston. This committee deserved the credit as well.**

**Page 6      December 13, 2004**

**Mr. Eramian thanked all his colleagues and administration. He has been on the committee for 2-1/2 years, and it has been an educational experience. It would only be his hope that he has contributed to have been a help because he has received a lot of support from the staff and his colleagues. It has not been the easiest of times with the school department, but they have done an excellent job of continuing**

their mission; and he is very impressed. He started on the committee by doing research, and within two or three months, he was truly impressed with the return of information. For very little investment compared to other areas in the state, tremendous education goes on every day in all the schools. The results show it month after month. He thanked everyone, and stated that it has been an honor to serve. He wished everyone success.

## **II. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Stycos reported that a meeting of the School Nutrition Committee would take place on Thursday, January 13, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. in the Park View Middle School library.

## **III. SPEAKERS – Agenda Items**

Donald Frederick, Spoke on behalf of CASA. He echoed the comments made thus far this evening. He thanked the committee members for everything they have done. He said it as a parent. His three daughters and himself graduated from Cranston Public Schools. They are all products of some of the work of former School Committee members. He thanked the present School Committee and those who have gone before them.

#### **IV. MINUTES OF MEETINGS – November 9, 2004 and November 15, 2004**

**Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that the minutes of November 9, 2004 and November 15, 2004 be approved.**

#### **V. RESOLUTIONS**

##### **ADMINISTRATION PERSONNEL**

**Page 7      December 13, 2004**

**NO. 04-12-1 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed for the remainder of the 2004-2005 school year:**

**Matthew T. Sheridan, salary to be at the first step plus Masters of the prevailing salary schedule**

**Education – Bryant University, B.S.; Roger Williams University, M.A.**

**Experience – Student Teacher, Bristol-Warren School District**

**Certification – Middle School Science**

**Assignment – Western Hills Middle School, Science, .7 FTE**

**Effective Date of Employment – December 13, 2004**

**Authorization – Replacement**

**Fiscal Note: 12911012 512100**

**Dina DiCola, salary to be at the tenth step of the prevailing salary schedule**

**Education – Boston University, B.A.**

**Experience – Hasbro Children's Hospital**

**License – Occupational Therapist**

**Assignment – Special Services, 1.0 FTE**

**Effective Date of Employment – January 5, 2005**

**Authorization – Replacement**

**Fiscal Note: 14732010511440**

**Alyssa R. Jeschke, salary to be at the first step of the prevailing salary schedule**

**Education – University of Rhode Island, BS**

**Experience – Cranston Public Schools Substitute**

**Certification – Health/Physical Education, PK-12**

**Assignment – Cranston High School East, 1.0 FTE**

**Effective Date of Employment – December 13, 2004**

**Authorization – Replacement**

**Fiscal Note: 11311012 512100**

**Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Lupino that this Resolution be accepted.**

**Mrs. White noted the additional name of Alyssa Jeschke from the Addendum to the Agenda.**

**This Resolution was adopted unanimously.**

**Page 8      December 13, 2004**

**NO. 04-12-2 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:**

**Kathleen M. Moan   Elementary, PK-2, Special Education**

**Kathryn E. Chester   General Subject, K-12**

**Elizabeth J. McDonald   Elementary**

**Rachel Field   General Subject, K-12**

**Maureen Connerton   Nurse Teacher**

**Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously**

**carried that this Resolution be adopted.**

**NO. 04-12-3 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of the following certified personnel be accepted:**

**Beverly Bunn**

**Reading Consultant**

**Effective Date: November 17, 2004**

**Eileen Rosenberg-Black**

**Social Worker**

**Effective Date: February 1, 2003**

**Denise Haigh**

**Social Studies Teacher**

**Effective Date: December 30, 2004**

**Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Lupino that this Resolution be adopted.**

**Mrs. White noted the additional name of Denise Haigh from the Addendum to the Agenda.**



**Mrs. Ciarlo stated that the retirement of Denise Haigh is after thirty-two years of service to the Cranston Public Schools. Presently, she has been at Western Hills, but she started her career in February 1973 at Oak Lawn School and served at the Dutemple School and finally a social studies teacher at Western Hills Middle School. She will be missed, and Mrs. Ciarlo wished her well.**

**This Resolution was adopted unanimously.**

**NO. 04-12-4 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individual be appointed as an athletic coach:**

**Jaime Gaulin-Ferretti, Head Coed Swimming, Cranston High School West**

**Step – 3**

**Class – B**

**Playing Competition – Bay View Academy**

**Experience – Youth Program Director, Cranston YMCA**

**Certification – RI Coaches Certification; CPR/First Aid Certified**

**Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.**

**NO. 04-12-5 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the**

**Superintendent, the following non-certified employees be appointed:**

**Regina Poethke, Technical Assistant-Graphic Communications**

**Cranston Area Career & Technical Center**

**Effective Date of Employment – December 13, 2004**

**Fiscal Note: 17431614 514000**

**Adam Park, 4-Hour Custodian**

**Plant**

**Effective Date of Employment – December 14, 2004**

**Fiscal Note: 13647418518100**

**Norma Manish, Bus Monitor**

**Transportation**

**Effective Date of Employment – November 29, 2004**

**Fiscal Note: 14347518 518600**

**Denise Wentzel, Bus Monitor**

**Transportation**

**Effective Date of Employment – November 29, 2004**

**Fiscal Note: 14347518 518600**

**Page 10      December 13, 2004**

**Sandra Lai, 3-Hour Food Service Worker**

**Effective Date of Employment – December 6, 2004**

**Fiscal Note: 33047179 511000**

**Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.**

**NO. 04-12-6 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:**

**TEACHER ASSISTANTS**

**Maribel Rodriguez-Colon**

**Antonette Gomes**

**Dawn Steiner**

**Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.**

**NO. 04-12-7 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirements of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:**

**Barbara Ricard, Secretary**

**Physical Education/Health**

**Effective Date: June 30, 2005**

**Carol Bovill, Bus Aide**

**Effective Date: December 6, 2004**

**Lois Darling, Bus Aide**

**Effective Date: December 30, 2004**

**Lucille Pazienza, Teacher Assistant**

**Effective Date: December 30, 2004**

**Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Lupino that this Resolution be adopted.**

**Mrs. White noted the additional names of Lois Darling and Lucille Pazienza from the Addendum to the Agenda.**

**Mrs. Ciarlo commented that Barbara Ricard is retiring after thirty-three years with Cranston Public Schools. She has been secretary for Physical Education and Health and has worked in many different places. She has always been gracious and a**

**Page11 December 13, 2004**

**wonderful worker. Lucille Pazienza has been a teacher assistant and has worked for Cranston Public Schools for thirty-two years at various elementary schools as well as presently at Cranston East. She has also been active in union representation. Both are hard workers and have made many contributions to the schools. They will**

**be missed, but Mrs. Ciarlo wished them well.**

**This Resolution was adopted unanimously.**

**NO. 04-12-8 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignations of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:**

**Sandra Spaziano, Bus Monitor  
Transportation**

**Effective Date: November 19, 2004**

**Lori J. Capece, Teacher Assistant  
Cranston High School West**

**Effective Date: December 10, 2004**

**Diane D’Ambruoso, Teacher Assistant  
Garden City**

**Effective Date: December 2, 2004**

**Marie Montecalvo, Food Service Worker  
Effective Date – November 17, 2004**

**Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.**

**NO. 04-12-9 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the termination of Employee A be accepted.**

**Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.**

**Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RI State Law 42-46-5(1) personnel.**

**The committee adjourned to Executive Session at 7:45 p.m.**

**Mrs. White reconvened public session at 8:15 p.m.**

**Page 12      December 13, 2004**

**Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that the December 13, 2004 Executive Session minutes remain confidential.**

**NO. 04-12-10 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the termination of Employee B be accepted.**

**Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and carried that this**

**Resolution be adopted with Mr. Drager opposed.**

**NO. 04-12-11 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the termination of Employee C be accepted.**

**Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.**

**NO. 04-12-12 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the termination of Employee D be accepted.**

**Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.**

**No. 04-12-13 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the termination of Employee E be accepted.**

**Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.**

**Mrs. White turned the Chair over to Mr. Cardarelli.**

## **BUSINESS**

**NO. 04-12-14 - RESOLVED, that Mrs. Jacqueline White be reimbursed for travel and miscellaneous expenses in the amount of \$182.37 for**

**the period July 1, 2004 to December 2004.**

**Moved by Mr. Lupino, seconded by Mr. Eramian and carried with Mrs. White recusing that this Resolution be adopted.**

**Mr. Cardarelli returned the Chair to Mrs. White.**

**Page 13      December 13, 2004**

**NO. 04-12-15 - RESOLVED, the following purchases be approved:  
(Fund 3)**

**Cafeteria Food and Supplies for the Cranston School Lunch Program  
for the period of January 1, 2005 to June 30, 2005 be purchased in the  
estimated amount of \$315,450.52**

**Number of bids issued 9**

**Number of bids received 5**

**Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Lupino that this  
Resolution be adopted.**

**Mrs. White noted the amount of \$315,450.52 and the number of bids  
received as 5 from the Addendum to the Agenda.**



**Mr. Lupino asked if the \$315,450 was to one vendor or several vendors, and Mr. Balducci responded that it was split among several vendors.**

**This Resolution was adopted unanimously.**

**Mrs. White stated that it has been a pleasure serving with Mr. Drager. He has certainly been a very positive colleague and certainly represented his area well. She was sure that the next School Committee would miss his presence. On behalf of the committee and administration, she presented a clock to Mr. Drager.**

**Mr. Drager stated that he had received an emergency call for work and left the meeting at 8:20 p.m.**

**NO. 04-12-16 – RESOLVED, that the following Grant purchases be approved:**

**Digital Pianos in the amount of \$2,032 (funding from the 21st Century Community Learning Grant)**

**Number of bids issued 27**

**Number of bids received 5**

**Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously**

**carried that this Resolution be adopted.**

## **POLICY AND PROGRAM**

**NO. 04-12-17 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2004-2005 Meeting and Work Session Schedule of the Cranston School Committee that**

**Page 14      December 13, 2004**

**was adopted on August 16, 2004, Resolution No. 04-8-33, be revised to reflect a change to Wednesdays for the School Committee Work Sessions.**

**Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Lupino that this Resolution be adopted.**

**Mr. Lupino noted that this schedule was being changed to reflect the new committee and some potential conflicts. He had conflicts on Tuesdays, and the work sessions were very important to him. It was not done for only his personal situations but others as well. In August, the committee will revisit this schedule.**

**This Resolution was adopted unanimously.**

**NO. 04-12-18 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following Conference/Field Trip of Long Duration be authorized:**

**Howard T. Chun, science teacher at Cranston High School East, to travel to San Diego, California from January 8, 2005 to January 12, 2005 to attend the American Astronomical Society Meeting/Workshop.**

**Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.**

**Mrs. White stated that she has had the pleasure over the last 2-1/2 years and six years serving with Mr. Cardarelli, Mr. Eramian, and Mr. Drager, and she has had the pleasure of serving with many colleagues over the 16 years she has been on the School Committee. The last couple of School Committees have been very unique in the fact that they did not have personal agendas when they came on the committee. They had one thing in mind and that was the children of the Cranston Public Schools. It began to turn around when Mr. Lupino, Mr. Cardarelli, Mr. Giammarco, Mr. Ventetuolo and herself were a five-member committee. That was the year that three new members came on with Mr. Ventetuolo and her and everything started to turn around. No one had a personal agenda. From that moment forward, it seemed that everyone who came on the committee had the same agenda. It was a real pleasure working with these gentlemen.**

She has had great people as colleagues, and it has truly been wonderful to watch the dedication. There have been hundreds of hours of meetings per year over the last several years. The committee became comrades in many instances. They did have their bickering, but they were always able to break bread after they left the meeting. No one thinks on the same wave length all the time, and that is how things get accomplished. Over the last several years she has watched this school system grow in leaps and bounds to become something very wonderful. She was around in the 1980's when it was a good school system, but now it has become great. She would like to believe that the committee has been a part of that. Mr. Lupino had commented earlier that the administration has been a wonderful team, but the committee gave them the

Page 15      December 13, 2004

ropes to go ahead to do what they felt was the right thing. It was a combined effort, and she felt that she was really part of a team for a long period of time; and she will always remember that. She came to this meeting tonight with very mixed emotions. It has been over thirty years that she has dedicated time to the Cranston Public Schools, but they have been thirty wonderful years. Even in spite of the bickering with City Hall, she has made many friends and has wonderful memories.

Mrs. White further commented that her family was present in the

audience tonight which included her husband and her two daughters. They have been very patient with her over the last thirty years. When she first became actively involved with Stadium School, and she noted that Barry Dana never knew what he was getting himself in for when he told her “Put up or shut up, lady!”, she told him he would be very sorry he said those words. After she announced that she was retiring, Mr. Dana and she had lunch together. She spent many nights at Stadium School, and they had a PTA that was very involved with School Committee meetings, and she was their representative. That is when she became interested in serving on the School Committee. She told Mr. Cardarelli that he was correct in what he said about when the children are young. She knew it was something that she could never do because it was too big a commitment. When her daughters got older and her youngest was in middle school, she made the commitment. It was one of the best things she has ever done. She has given to her community in a volunteer capacity, but her community has given to her just as much as she has given to it. She thanked first of all her family because of their patience of her going to meetings and not having dinner with them. Her husband, Mike, has been wonderful through it all. He spent many nights alone in front of a TV set because she wouldn't return home until 11:00 p.m. or Midnight. They will now have more time to spend together. Her daughters have been wonderful, and they are still a very big part of her life. Her grandson, Austin, is the king of her life. She stated further that she is moving on, but she will not forget everyone. She thanked everyone and told Mrs. Ciarlo and the administrative staff

that she is very humbled and honored to have the Bain auditorium named after her. It was something she never expected. Bain is very special to her, and she thanked them for that honor. She never dreamed of this happening.

On behalf of the committee and administration, Mrs. White presented clocks to Mr. Cardarelli and Mr. Eramian.

Mrs. Ciarlo stated to Mrs. White that it was her pleasure to present a small token of the appreciation of the School Committee, the administration, parents and everyone for her dedication on the School Committee for sixteen years and of those fourteen years serving as Chairman and Clerk. Mrs. White has definitely made a difference. Mrs. Ciarlo commented further that whatever achievements or success one has, they are not accomplished alone. One only achieves when one has people around to support and help. Mrs. White has been most supportive and helpful to the Cranston Public Schools, and the Cranston School Committee rightfully shares in any of the glory they receive

Page 16      December 13, 2004

because they have always worked together as a team. On behalf of the committee and administration, Mrs. Ciarlo presented a clock and an inscribed gavel to Mrs. White. Mrs. Ciarlo and everyone looks forward to January 31st for a very special dedication.

**Mrs. White thanked everyone for her gift and commented that it was her pleasure and honor to turn over the gavel to the new Chairman of the School Committee, Gordon Palumbo. She knows that Mr. Palumbo certainly has the skills to be a wonderful leader. He does think a little like Mrs. White, but he has a different personality. He has the agenda of the children of this school system in mind. It has been a wonderful pleasure working with him over the past two years, and she felt very confident, happy and glad to turn the gavel over to Mr. Palumbo. Mrs. White wished him the best of luck and wished the new committee and the returning members good luck. It will be a busy two years, but with Mr. Palumbo as their leader, they will achieve much success and happiness as she has.**

## **VI. SPEAKERS – Non-agenda Items**

**Frank Flynn, CTA President – Mr. Flynn addressed Mr. Cardarelli, Mr. Eramian and Mrs. White. On behalf of the Cranston Teachers' Alliance, he thanked them for their dedication to and support of the children and employees of Cranston Public Schools. While they didn't always agree on the issues, they were always open to the opportunity to share ideas. They proved together that collectively they could overcome almost any obstacle. He thanked them for all they have done and wished them the very best in their retirement**

**from the School Committee.**

**Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that the meeting be adjourned.**

**There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at**

**8:35 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Michael G. Cardarelli, Jr.**

**Clerk**